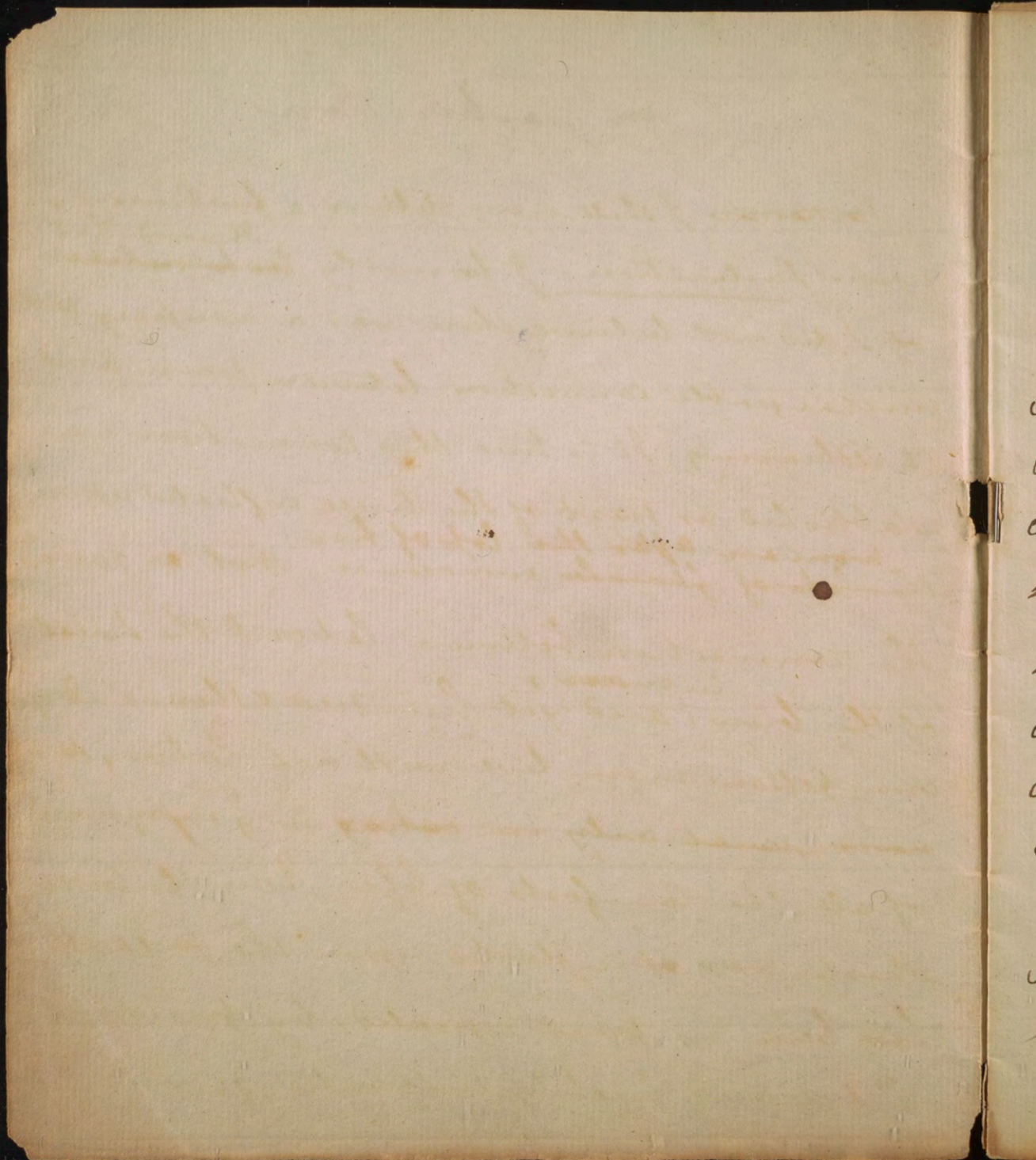


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on partition



Perseus I shall now deliver a few Remarks
upon Perseus. I formerly ^{observed that} ~~took notice~~
of I did not believe there was a necessary &
unchangeable connection between pain and
childbearing. It is true this connection was
established as part of the curse inflicted upon
woman ^{after the loss of her} ~~the loss of female~~ innocence, But it was
the connection between labor & the sweat
of the brow, and yet hundreds & thousands of
our fellow men live without labor, ~~the~~
~~never sweat only in eating~~ in ^e enjoyment
of all the comforts of life. Even the curse
which was ~~at~~ inflicted upon the ~~to~~ earth
has been in part repealed, by fruitful
fields and highly cultivated gardens in

so many parts of the world succeeding
bygones and thorns. The pain of Childbearing
has been greatly mitigated in Turkey by the
use of Sweet Oil (which acts as a gentle
purgative) during pregnancy. Climate has
done the same thing in Sicily according
to Bydane, and in some of the West India
Islands according to the report of Dr Taylor
an eminent woman midwife in St. Kitts. Our
inquiring therefore into the means of lessening
the pains of Childbearing is not ^{calculated} ~~an~~ ~~in~~
to defeat a law of ^{nature} ~~heaven~~. ~~It~~ Heaven
has kindly in the instances that have been
mentioned pointed out ^{some of} the means for that
purpose. — To prepare us for the use of
these the Remedies which are calculated to
mitigate the pains of
~~under the~~ Childbearing ~~easy~~ at all

25 Previously to Childbearing, the System
is generally plethoric and excitable from
the Appetite, and want of exercise ^{ch}
young and ~~from the influence of the~~ ^{from the influence of the} distended state
of the Uterus upon the whole System.

times, & in all countries, it will be
necessary to deliver premise the following
propositions. -

1 Childbearing is a disease. It appears in
a chronic Spasm.
One of its worst forms viz ~~Convulsions~~
It does not militate against the truth
of this proposition, that no inflammationⁿ
attends it, - for we all I hope now
believe that disease often exists without
inflammⁿ: and that it exists in its worst
forms, when it transcends Inflammⁿ:
But it sometimes appears without con:
vulsion or Spasm, from the exup, or hebb:
cation of morbid excitement.

3 The operations of nature in this Disease
as in ^{most} all others ~~of a less that are violent~~
are often exsusive, deficient, or not directed

properly to accomplish her purposes.
They ^{are excluded} ~~is excluded~~ in Childbearing ~~is not~~
~~where there is~~ 1 where convulsions in the
whole muscular system accompanying the
~~process in the uterus~~ 2 where pains in
the bowels ^{the} 3 where hemorrhage from
the uterus accompanying the ^{contractions of the} ~~process~~
the uterus. The excess of these morbid
operations of nature appears still further
in the total absence of ^{of contraction} ~~of contraction~~
in the uterus from the suffocation of
^{morbid} ~~its~~ excitement. It is from this excess
of disease that labors are not only unpropitiously
painful, but protracted far beyond the
time necessary to exclude the fetus. It is
probable the wrong position of the fetus
in utero is often owing to this cause.

They are. The operations of nature in
Childbearing as I believe are not often

of a deficient nature. The women who are the most debilitated by previous diseases, or by ~~depleting~~ depleting remedies, have generally easy and natural births.

These ~~two~~ ^{three} propositions being admitted I go on to remark, that the Remedies for difficult and painful parturition should be the same as for all other violent spasmodic, or convulsive diseases. As ~~the~~ its difficulty, and extreme pain arise oft much oftner from ~~weak~~ an ~~excess~~ of force natural, or ill directed force in nature, than from a deficiency of it, I shall briefly mention the Remedies for lessning pain, and shortning the duration of labor. The 1st of these is Blood letting. I ~~suggested the use of~~ ^{suggested the use of} this remedy with most of the above reasons in its favor in my lectures upon physiology in the year 1792. In the year 17 on the 18 of Jan^r 1795 my

[Faint, illegible handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

~~Colleague Dr Physick~~ ^{Shoulder} ~~reduced a dislocation that~~
~~had been dislocated for several weeks,~~
~~in a few minutes, & a man came~~
~~into the Pennsylvania Hospital whose~~
~~shoulder ^{bone} had been dislocated for several~~
~~weeks. From ~~being~~ all the usual methods~~
~~of reducing it has been used to no purpose.~~
~~My Colleague Dr Physick~~ ^{to whose care} ~~whose patient he~~
~~he was committed, ^{began his preparations,} prepared to make~~
~~a new attempt to relieve him by first~~
~~drawing blood from him till he fainted.~~
~~while he lay upon in this state,~~ ^{the Dr reduced the}
~~bone~~ ^{bone} ~~with little force, and in a half a mi-~~
~~nute reduced him to the bone. to its proper~~

This easy and happy cure increased my
confidence in the lancet in parturition,
It is was confirmed still more by reflect-
ing upon the instant relief which

~~& The~~

✓ ~~For~~ The practice I am now advising however
contrary to common prejudice I am happy
to hear is not new. I have this day heard
that it is recommended in the Journal
of medicine for March 1774 by a french
Physician. Feb. 24. 1802.

bleeding affords, in Colics, Convulsions &
all other violent muscular & nervous
Diseases. But my high opinion of this
remedy in the Childbearing no longer
^{reasoning &}
rests upon analogies. Dr Dennis has used
it often, and with ~~good~~ the happiest effects.
Dr Brown formerly a pupil of Dr Physick
has introduced ^{it} into his practice in Ches-
ter County, and to ^{an} extent which has
added greatly to ~~the~~ the benefits derived
from it. He seldom draws less than $\frac{1}{3}$ of
of blood in the beginning of a labor. (consi-
-dering the predisposing causes ^{of} plethora
and excitability which have been mentioned, I can easily con-
-ceive a larger quantity might be drawn
in many cases with advantage. V

In addition to this copious loss of blood,
the bowels should be plentifully opened by

✓ But the beneficial effects of this &c. and
the other depleting remedies that have been men-
tioned, I believe would extend much further.
They would probably prevent the inflamed
breasts - the swelled legs - the obstructed Lachia -
the uterine hemorrhages, - the colics - the
the head aches &c
fevers which so often follow delivery. Even
the foetus would be benefitted by them, for
it would suffer much less by from being
compressed, and bruised in a tedious & painful
passage & into the world.

means of Glysters, and the Diet & Drinks of
~~should~~ ~~be~~ consist of things that contain
as little nourishment & stimulus as
possible.

Perhaps an Advantage would arise
from advising low diet to Women ten
days, or two weeks, before ^{they} ~~the~~ expect
to be confined, and agreeably to the
Turkish practice, to ^{from} ~~ad~~ recommending
lenient purges during the last three
months of their pregnancy ^{once} ~~two~~ or
twice a week. The good effects of this
regimen in lessening the violence of the
small pox, and yellow fever encourage
us to expect similar benefits ^{from} ~~it~~
in the violent disease of parturition.

thruo
✓ of opium, and the slow progress of
delivery, indicate a deficiency of ~~active~~
strength in the system equal to its
exigencies, Opium should be exhibited
in proportion to the exigencies of the
system. I think I have seen the hep-
-erist effects from that noble medicine
in such cases in ^{destroying a positive} lessening the pains
and shortning the duration of labor.

How far a dose of Opium so powerful
as to ^{suspend} compose the action of the brain,
might succeed in destroying pain altogether
I know not, but the following fact
shows that it has been destroyed by a
disease which ^{produced that effect upon the} suspended the action
of the brain. a Lady subject to Epileptic
fits was delivered while I was attended

The cases of difficult & ~~labor~~ painful
for delivery from a state of the system
~~related~~ below that state to which the
above remedies are calculated to ^{reduce} ~~remove~~
it I believe rarely occur. Most of the
labors which I ~~have~~ met with in the
last stage of consumption, & other chronic
diseases, have been short, & comparatively
easy. ^{But But one} ~~Two~~ exceptions have occurred to this
remark in the course of my practice.

Where there is reason to believe the
^{contractions} ~~contractions~~ in the uterus will be too
feeble from direct weakness to expel
the fetus, a cordial diet should be
indulged previous to the expected time
of confinement, and where the absence

V

of a child in one of her fits. Immediately
afterwards she fell asleep. In this her
child was dressed and placed by her side.
In the morning she as soon as she
awoke she saw this child, and asked with
Inquire, whose it was, ^{upon begging} ~~was did she~~
~~believe for me~~ ~~and~~ ~~told~~ told it was
hers, she declared that she had no recol-
-lection of having felt the least pain
in bringing it into the world. This in-
-formation was communicated to me
by the husband of the Lady, on the day
of the same morning in which it occur-
-ed, for I was at that time attending her
for another indisposition.

You will